Rs. 33.27 Crores. This figure of recalled loans has now been reduced to Rs. 14.70 Crores as on 12.3.87.

R. B. I. pressing for cautious monetary policy

2606. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that as reported in 'Business India' dated 12—25 January, 1987 the R.B.I. has been pressing for cautious monetary policy in view of sharp increase of 8.8 per cent in consumer price increases, if so, the details of RBI's suggestions and follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): In its Report on Currency and Finance, 1985-86, the Reserve Bank has stated that "during the first six months of 1986-87 the average of CPI moved up by 8.7 per cent as compared ith an increase of 5.7 per cent in the corresponding period of 1985-86. In view of these signals on the price front, the stance of the monetary policy has to be one of continued caution, while at the same time meeting the genuine credit requirements of the various sectors in the economy." An account of the measures taken in this regard is contained in the "Economic Survey, 1986-87" presented in Parliament on February 24, 1987.

Report of Press Council

2607. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by the Press Council in its meeting held on October 29, last, relating to the attacks on the Gujarat Samachar and Western Times, the dailies, located in the same compound at Ahmedabad on April 23, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the Council's report indicated that the attacks were engineered by the Police and the Gujarat Government; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto and steps that are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The Government has seen Press reports to this effect.

(b) As per the information furnished by the Press Council of India the Council did not consider it necessary to come to any final conclusion as to whether the incident was engineered by the local police.

(c) The Council has reported that the decision in the matter was duly communicated to the Government of Gujarat. Since the matter essentially pertains to the State Government, it is for them to take appropriate action.

2608. [*Transferred to the 17th March*, 1987.]

Administration at block and District levels

2609. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Administrative Arrangements for Rural Development set up by the Planning Commission headed by Dr. G. V. K. Rao, have recently recommended for the creation of separate development administration at block and district levels with horizontal and vertical linkages; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?